

15 December 1955

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Captain K. A. Knowles**

**SUBJECT: Discussion with [ ] and Mr. Amory  
regarding Human Relations Area Files (HRAF)  
Handbooks**

1. On 14 December [ ] phoned and inquired about our comments on the HRAF Handbooks, and at his request I hand-carried the OBI comments to him on 15 December 1955.

2. In the telephone conversation [ ] informed me that when he reported to Mr. Bissell that the consensus of the panel subcommittee on these handbooks was that they were completely unacceptable, Mr. Bissell suggested that CIA should get in on the act immediately by submitting our comments. [ ] on the other hand, felt that CIA should withhold any comment on the HRAF handbooks until after the formal report was made by the panel subcommittee.

3. This is in line with your views on the matter which we discussed just prior to your going on leave. However, in view of Mr. Bissell's feeling on the matter [ ] felt that we should discuss it with Mr. Amory and asked that I sit in on a meeting which he was arranging with Mr. Amory for the morning of 15 December.

4. We met with Mr. Amory and his first reaction was that we should immediately submit our comments to be on record as to our opinion of the HRAF studies. Both [ ] and I presented our feelings on the matter, and after [ ] pointed out that he would have an opportunity to see the draft of the subcommittee report prior to its submission to the panel, Mr. Amory agreed that it would be better to wait until that time before we take any further action. The subcommittee report is due to be presented to the panel on 23 January, and [ ] expects to see the draft some time around 15 January.

5. From the discussion with [ ] I got the impression that the subcommittee report will blast the HRAF Handbooks to a point where CIA comment need go little beyond concurrence in the subcommittee report. However, he said that he would work on a paper which could be submitted to the panel if it is decided that CIA should comment on the handbooks at greater length.

Master files "Human Relations Area Files" copies in "USIA and "Psychological Warfare"

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

R. H. BOBERG